DEMOCRATIC
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POLL DATE FIXED

General Elections in Democratic Germany

The electors of the German Democratic Republic will go to the polls on November 16th to give their approval to the coalition list of candidates for the People's Chamber drawn up by the National Front.

The date for the general election was announced on September 22nd at a congress of the National Front held in Berlin, and attended by 2200 delegates from all parts of the Democratic Republic. Elections to the county councils will be held simultaneously with the general election.

As at previous elections in the German Democratic Republic, the list of candidates will be selected by the five parties which make up the coalition — the Socialist Unity Party, the Christian Democrats, the Liberal Democrats, the National Democrats and the Democratic Peasants — in conjunction with the trade unions, youth and women's organisations, and other bodies. A final consolidated list of candidates will be prepared after each candidate has presented himself or herself to special meetings of the electors for approval.

The actual election procedure on November 16th then takes the form of registering approval of the coalition list. There will be no opposition candidates.

Figures at the last general election, on October 17th 1954, were as follows:

Total electorate: 12,085,380
Total votes cast: 11,892,849
Votes for National Front candidates: 11,828,877
Invalid papers, and votes against National Front: 63,972

Announcing the opening of the election campaign, Professor Albert Norden, a member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party, and member of the Presidium of the National Front said:

"The task of the election campaign is to acquaint the citizens of our Republic even more closely with the problems of building socialism; to draw them into active cooperation in these tasks, and to gain their cooperation in running the state.

"The candidates at the coming election will be charged with particularly great responsibilities since they will lead our state during one of the most momentous periods of German history: the period in which the superiority of the socialist system over the capitalist system will be proved clearly and for all to see.

"The task of the members of the mock parliament in Bonn is to be parliamentary sheep, or to allow themselves to be overridden so that the plans for atomic armament can be put into force by 1961 against the will of the people.

"The task of the members of our parliament is to ensure by 1961 the fulfillment of our plans for peaceful prosperity, thus leashing the atomic strategists and ensuring peace.

"This difference in task makes quite clear the difference between the mock elections in the West German state of financial bosses and militarists, and our democratic elections in our workers' and peasants' state.

"The great difference between the two systems is also shown by the differing rights of the electors. In which capitalist state is the candidate obliged to present himself to the voters, to give them information about his social activity, and render account to the voters about how he has fulfilled his tasks? In which capitalist state have the voters the right to recall a member of parliament if he does not carry out his duties successfully?

"Here in Democratic Germany the working masses which run the state under the leadership of the working class decide who shall be sent to parliament. In West Germany the decision is taken by the monopolists: they name the candidates and provide the money.

"We know that our elections do not meet with the approval of various people in the West German 'Office for Psychological Warfare'. We understand this, since our elections will not bring them any good. But we do not allow these gentlemen, who are supporters of the 'Fuehrer Prinzip', to tell us how to hold democratic elections.

"There have never been such democratic elections in Germany as those which are held today in our Republic."

PEACE TREATY PROSPECTS

TV Interview with Walter Ulbricht

The speedy conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany is the only realistic road towards a solution of the German problem, Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, stated in a countrywide TV and radio interview on September 12th.

In this interview Herr Ulbricht enlarged on the notes dispatched in the previous week to the governments of the Big Four and to the West German Government. In these notes the Government of the German Democratic Republic proposed the establishment of two commissions: the first commission, to be established by the Big Four, would work on the terms of a draft peace treaty; the second commission, to be formed by the governments of the two existing German states, would work on the German side of the problem.

Here are the main points from Herr Ulbrich's TV interview:

Our proposal to the Four Powers to work out a Peace Treaty together with representatives of the two German states would contribute to peace and help prevent a dangerous increase of tension in Germany.

We approached the Four Powers because they are responsible for preparing the Peace Treaty, while the reunification of Germany is solely the concern of the German people. We regard the maintenance of peace as the basic condition for a settlement of the German question.

Peace is more and more threatened since atomic armament began in West Germany and the West German government began to take part in actions by NATO states against other peoples — for instance in the case of the Arab states.

Question: *So many proposals have been made in connection with the German question, but the Bonn government has ignored them all. Do you think this proposal will get more attention?*

Answer: Most people in West Germany are against atomic armament. The Bonn government's ban on the plebiscite on atomic armament indicates that the peace movement has become a great force. Of course it is not enough merely to be against atomic armaments; a practicable way to peace must also be shown. An atom-free zone and a peace treaty with Germany would certainly help.

What is new in the situation is the fact that the futility of Adenauer's atomic diplomacy can no longer be hidden. Threats of atomic warfare will not drive anyone to make concessions to German militarism. The Soviet Sputniks, intercontinental rockets and the US setback in the Arab states have shattered many West German's belief in the superior strength of the USA.

The US government's Far Eastern policy has still further isolated it. And I do not believe that many people are satisfied by Mr. Dulles' statement that it might be a hundred years before Germany is united again.

Question: *Certain West German politicians have still not given up hope of difficulties within the socialist countries. What do you think about this?*

Answer: The steadfastness of the German Democratic Republic in face of the provocative measures of the Western Powers in 1956 confirmed its stability. Since then we have become stronger — not weaker.

Question: *Do you think that the situation today gives rise to the hope that the present proposals will meet with greater understanding in West Germany than in other countries?*

Answer: Yes, we believe that certain results will be achieved, for this is the only realistic way of approaching a solution to the German question.

Question: *What compromises does such a peace treaty require of the Federal Republic?*

Answer: Our proposal contains no demands which would be unacceptable to West German citizens. Neither German state need give up anything. It also conforms in many ways to the conceptions of the Social Democratic and Free Democratic Parties.

Question: *Meanwhile the Bonn government has sent a note to the Four Powers proposing a Four Power commission on German reunification. What do you think about this?*

Answer: The Bonn government does not seem to attach too much importance to its own note, since it was handed over by an undersecretary. But it is significant that it appeals to the Four Powers on a question solely concerning the German people. The note makes no mention of the character of a reunified Germany. What kind of a Germany is to be created?

It is known that, in accordance with a US proposal, a commission composed of representatives of the USA, Great Britain, France and the West German Federal Republic has worked out a draft for the reunification of Germany. But this plan has not so far been placed before the Federal Parliament, nor is it mentioned in the West German note.

Question: *Can you say something about this so-called plan for German reunification which now lies in Herr von Brentano's safe?*

Answer: Since Herr von Brentano is not interested in making the document public, I shall do so. On the basis of agreements between the USA, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union elections to a National Assembly are to be held under international supervision. Election rules are to be laid down by the Four Powers — not by the two German states. The National Assembly is to appoint provisional all-German officials and later to form the government. The elections are to take place in West Germany under pressure from NATO and in the presence of US, British and French troops, and atomic armament will continue.

If the military-clericalist dictatorship succeeds in winning a majority, because of West Germany's larger population, German NATO troops are to occupy Germany up to the Oder river, while the British and American troops will remain where they are. The National Assembly is to have the right to demand withdrawal of foreign troops, ie., of Soviet troops. This is a strategic, militarist plan. It has nothing whatever to do with the problem of German reunification.

Question: *But you do believe that we Germans can persuade the Four Powers to prepare a Peace Treaty?*

Answer: Yes, I do. If 70 million Germans demand a Peace Treaty, no-one can refuse it. The population of both German states must also insist that representatives of the two states sit down together to discuss all questions connected with a Peace Treaty.

Question: *Do you think that these discussions could help towards reunification?*

Answer: Yes, I think questions connected with the relations between the two German states could also be discussed; economic questions, customs and currency, transport and news services etc. The only way to a peaceful reunification is through a commission which will agree upon the setting up of a confederation of the two German states. This would create a situation in which a peace-loving, democratic and progressive Germany could grow up as a result of peaceful competition in political, economic and cultural life.

Atomic Warships for West Germany?

Britain and America will soon give the West German state permission to build atom-motored warships as part of a greatly increased naval force, the "Rheinische Post", West German Christian Democratic newspaper stated on September 12th.

"The NATO naval forces in the Baltic must be greatly increased" the paper stated. "Even when the (West) German navy has reached its target strength it will not be powerful enough to contain the Soviet forces in the Baltic. The NATO leadership is therefore pressing for an increase of the naval forces above the figure hitherto fixed. Negotiations are expected shortly on a removal of the ban on West German production of heavy mines, atom-powered vessels, naval guns and torpedoes. The Federal Government requested the ending of this ban months ago, and in Bonn it is believed that the NATO partners will agree to this request."

More Old Masters Back

Five hundred old masters which had formerly been exhibited in Dresden art galleries were on exhibition in the Leningrad Hermitage for three days in September, prior to their return to Democratic Germany.

These pictures were rescued by Soviet soldiers in 1945 from mines and other places where they had been hidden by the nazis. Many of these pictures were seriously damaged as a result of long storage in unsuitable places, and Soviet experts have spent years restoring them to their former beauty.

A first installment of old masters was returned to Germany late in 1955 and exhibited for some months in the Berlin National Gallery before being returned to the newly restored Dresden Gallery in 1956.

TARGET: CATCH UP BY 1961

The German Democratic Republic has set itself the task of catching up with West Germany in per capita consumption of the main foodstuffs and consumer goods by 1961. In an article on September 16th the "Berliner Zeitung", East Berlin, pointed out that the Leipzig Autumn Fair had given an opportunity of judging how much ground has still to be made up to reach the goal by 1961. Here are some of the main points from this article:

"In a whole series of consumer goods we are already further ahead than is generally thought. Our per-capita consumption of cameras and several other optical goods is already above the West German figure. With regard to radio sets we are also ahead of West Germany, but here steps must be taken to keep a full range of sets always available. We have reached the West German figures of consumption with regard to bicycles, most types of glass and chinaware, and some sorts of furniture.

"In a further group of goods we only have to take a comparatively small step forwards to reach the West German standard. We shall have no difficulty in catching up with West Germany in the quantities of ladies' stockings, underclothing, children's clothing and watches, but care will have to be taken to catch up in quality too.

"Nobody attempts to conceal the fact that very great efforts will have to be made to catch up in other branches. A case in point is TV sets, in which we are years behind the West German development. However, in June this year our monthly production of TV sets had risen to 15,000 compared to 8,200 a year ago, and in the next two years this figure will be trebled, so that it is quite possible for us to catch up in this branch. The same is true for power-assisted bicycles

"The most difficult tasks confront us in the textile industry, which accounts for over half the total of consumer goods. Technical consumer goods will also give us some headaches: we are still well behind in the consumption of paper goods, for instance.

"The autumn Leipzig Fair has given us encouraging proof, however, that in practically all branches of production we are now turning out goods of a quality up to world standards, though not yet in sufficient quantities to meet export requirements and home demand.

"Measures have now been taken all along the line to raise production to the necessary levels in the next 1200 days. We shall prove to the West German workers that one can live better in a socialist state. Years of great success lie behind us, and we can undoubtedly master this great task in the 1200 days which lie ahead of us."

East & West Unions Should Vie

The trade unions in East and West Germany should hold a contest to see which can do more for the workers, the Free German Trade Union Federation in the German Democratic Republic has suggested.

It was suggested that this contest should take place in a number of fields:

1. In the general political field, to see which union federation could do the most in the struggle against atomic armament, for German reunification, and for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Germany.

2. To extend the rights of the unions in all fields.

3. To compete to see which union federation can raise the living standards of the workers most. For this purpose 200 typical workers' families in each German state should be chosen as examples, and their standard of living closely analysed.

Other areas in which the two trade unions could engage in peaceful competition would be holidays, social insurance, accident prevention and education, it was suggested.

Leipzig Fair — Record Sales

The export industry of the German Democratic Republic marked up record export sales at the Autumn Fair held in the second week of September. Export contracts were concluded for goods valued at 1,127 million marks, an increase of nearly 50% on the figures for 1957. Almost half the orders were placed by capitalist countries.

"DEMOCRATIC GERMANY HAS POPULAR SUPPORT" — West German T. U. Paper

West German politicians who refuse to recognise the existence of the German Democratic Republic are living in a world of illusion, the West German weekly "Welt der Arbeit", official organ of the West German Trade Union Federation, stated on September 5th.

Here are some of the main points from this article, which are all the more notable for the fact that the newspaper is in general bitterly opposed to the German Democratic Republic and the policy of its government:

"In the (West German) Federal Republic it is the usual thing to ignore the existence of the German Democratic Republic. It is referred to as the Soviet Zone. This is a sign ... of the world of illusion in which our politicians live. The Soviet Zone did not tread a legal path in becoming the German Democratic Republic, but it is in good company in this respect: what about, for instance, Spain, the Soviet Union and various Latin American states?

"It would perhaps be possible to continue living in this world of illusion if it were shared by a large part of the population of the German Democratic Republic. But that is not the case. A very solid strong state consciousness has developed there.

"This is of course not surprising in the case of the state officials, and people who directly benefit from the state. It is also understandable in the case of broad sections of workers and office workers, small peasants and labourers: they and their children really have more opportunities. A new society has really come into being. Those sections of the population which have been driven to the top support their state, even if they do not understand or support some facets.

"What is really surprising however is the fact that those circles which have no traditional link with the proletarian state, and which would have preferred to maintain the old social order, have also developed this new state consciousness. There can only be one convincing explanation of this fact.

One must recall the historical situation: with nothing, literally with nothing, the people in what was then the Soviet Occupation Zone made their start. They needed coal and steel from the other half of their homeland; but this other half was pre-occupied with its own problems, and the western allies had no interest in helping the zone held by their eastern comrades in arms.

"With generous American help we in the West started on our road to our economic miracle ... Our 'brothers in the zone' became annoyed and embittered. When the East German Government told them to roll up their sleeves and get down to work, they did so. They wanted to live, and so they allied themselves with a system which they might not really like, but which they today recognise ... This is a reality which must be reckoned with if one wishes to consider the situation seriously."

WHY DOCTORS QUIT

Officials in the health administration of the German Democratic Republic have made mistakes in the handling of doctors in recent months, and this has made it easier for West German propagandists to encourage doctors to leave the Democratic Republic and go to West Germany, the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party announced on September 18th. Mistakes had also been made by officials in the university administration, and in local authorities, the statement said.

"The Politburo calls upon the party comrades in the Ministry of Health and the State Secretariat for the Universities to open a campaign against the bureacratic handling of requests and complaints from the medicial profession" the statement said.

The statement suggested that chances for doctors to visit the Soviet Union and other socialist countries should be extended, and that doctors from the Democratic Republic should attend scientifically valuable congresses in West Germany and foreign countries. The Politburo would recommend to the Government of the Republic that travel to West Germany for private visits should be made easier, but it expressed the hope at the same time that the West German authorities would cease their discriminatory practices, and their espionage activity directed against the German Democratic Republic.

"The Politburo points out that practice of medicine and scientific activity in the German Democratic Republic depends upon professional capacity, and does not depend upon a philosophical acceptance of dialectical materialism. Doctors and scientists who have another philosophy have the opportunity to pursue unhindered their creative work ...

"The party comrades in the State Secretariat for the Universities must see to it that the reorganisation in the medical faculties really serves to develop and encourage the young generation of scientists, and that scientific work is not hindered by bureacratic measures.

"The Politburo holds that there are enough places at high schools and universities to accomodate the children of doctors and other circles of the intelligentsia: applicants who have hitherto been refused should be admitted to study ...

"The Politburo wishes to make it clear that doctors, dentists and chemists can remain in private practice without any limitation.

"The Politburo has convened a commission composed of leading doctors and medical scientists which shall occupy itself with questions affecting the health services and the medical intelligentsia, and which shall propose further measures in connection with holiday arrangements, pensions for doctors in private practice, etc."

Many Move East

A total of 27,000 moved their homes from West Germany to the German Democratic Republic in the first six months of 1958, according to figures published on September 4th in "Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party. In the three years 1955—1957, a total of 224,623 persons left West Germany and settled in new homes in the Democratic Republic, the newspaper stated.

The newspaper stated that the number of persons emigrating in the opposite direction was steadily sinking. 57 % fewer people left the German Democratic Republic in June 1958 than in the same month of 1957. The proportion of workers had dropped particularly rapidly, the newspaper said.

BUCHENWALD

Huge Crowds Remember Nazi Victims

"We pledge ourselves to do everything in our power to free the world of the nightmare of nuclear warfare." This was one of the main points of a pledge taken on September 14th by more than 100,000 men and women from Germany and abroad who rallied on the site of the nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald to mark the opening of the great memorial erected in memory of the 56,000 persons from 31 nations who were murdered there by the nazis.

"We swear to remain true to the ideals of the anti-fascist struggle for liberation; we swear to resist all those who would launch a new world war with the same heroism as that shown by our dead comrades" the pledge stated.

Silent Crowd Pays Homage

By Phyllis Rosner

It was a singularly silent crowd assembling in front of the Buchenwald memorial on that wonderful autumn day. They had come from all parts of Europe to pay homage to the 56,000 anti-fascists murdered by the nazis at this concentration camp. They had come to reiterate their pledge that fascism must never again take command of human lives and souls.

Among the huge crowd were men and women who had spent years in Buchenwald or one of the other concentration camps established by the Nazis throughout Europe. Many bore signs of their ordeal. There were prematurely aged men and women with sad, reflective faces; there were crippled and bent people. There were widows and orphans, grandparents who had brought their grandchildren to see the remains of this camp and the memorial constructed by the German Democratic Republic government.

They all stood quietly in the warm, September sunshine. Here and there were flags, many of them bearing a red triangle — the sign political prisoners had to wear on their hateful blue and white stripped uniforms and caps. One or two men were wearing these caps, a horrible reminder that only thirteen years ago millions of people throughout Europe were in those camps.

Standing at head of the Belgian delegation was a nun holding a white flag with a huge splash of red to symbolise the blood shed by men and women at the nazi concentration camp at Breendonk in Belgium. She was not the only nun at this dedication ceremony, there were several nuns and priests in the thousand-strong French delegation. The evening before they had held a special

service at Buchenwald in memory of those who had given their lives there.

As the various groups of the 5,000 foreign visitors descended the steps flanking the 150-foot high bell tower there were terribly moving scenes. I saw men embracing each other with tears of joy running down their faces as they discovered that a fellow prisoner, long since believed dead, was alive.

I saw children comforting their mothers. Standing near me, her face lined with suffering, was a frail Frenchwoman whose son had perished in Buchenwald's gas chambers. Mrs. Erna Wolf, a former inmate of Ravensbrueck concentration camp, now living in Cologne, Western Germany said to me, "You can't imagine what an effort it is for me to visit Buchenwald. But I must; you see my husband was murdered here in 1942 and I wanted to see this memorial, the first to be put up by any government in memory of those who perished in those ghastly camps."

As she spoke the bells of the tower started to chime; a few seconds afterwards rockets were fired. From the clear blue sky parachutes descended bearing the flags of the nations, which slowly and gracefully unfurled. Democratic German Republic political leaders, men steeled in the battle against the Nazis, many of them former concentration camp prisoners, took their place on the rostrum together with resistance fighters from over 20 countries.

It was just eleven o'clock as Otto Grotewohl, Premier of the German Democratic Republic declared: "The voices of the dead and living unite in the chimes of the bell to the warning cry: never again fascism and war..." His speech was short, unsentimental but moving. It was followed by short messages from men and women who had led the fight against fascism in their own country and in Germany.

Also present were three Labour Party councillors from London, Mrs. Peggy Middleton, Mr. Leonard Styles and Mr. Albert Murray. Councillor Styles told the gathering: "We from Britain are proud to be here and together with you to experience this dedication ceremony to honour the victims of fascism, brutally murdered here."

Afterwards Mrs. Middleton confessed that she had been moved to tears by the dedication ceremony. "I was tremendously impressed", she said, "particularly also by the young people. I felt that all the speakers were expressing a realistic approach — namely, there is a danger of fascism; that it is not necessary to hate any other nation, but it is necessary to be vigilant."

Another visitor from Britain, film actor Joseph Behrmann, was visiting Buchenwald for the first time since liberation day on April 11, 1945. Mr. Behrmann spent several years, as a boy, in various Nazi concentration camps, among them Buchenwald. He testified to the British Parliamentary Commission which visited Buchenwald in April 1945 a few days after liberation.

Describing that day when the prisoners disarmed their S. S. guards Mr. Behrmann stated, "I was feeling so weak and ill I just crawled to a heap of corpses and hid behind them. I thought I was going to die and I didn't care. I must have fallen asleep because when I woke up I found that the S. S. were no longer in control and the American troops were pouring into the camp."

Within a few days Mr. Behrmann was working for the Allies as interpreter and interrogator and gave evidence at the Buchenwald camp trial held at Dachau concentration camp in April 1947. Mr. Behrmann also gave the tip to the Allies resulting in the capture of Ernst Heinkel, whose firm is now busy once again on plane construction in Western Germany.

THE DIFFERENCE

By Lothar Kusche, East Berlin

On a recent visit to West Berlin an old lady asked me whether I really felt happy "in the East — without any freedom of thought."

Freedom of thought is a broad conception which should really be interpreted to mean freedom to live and act according to one's way of thinking. Freedom to think is possible everywhere and at all times, for thinking cannot for technical reasons be forbidden.

So the old lady really meant freedom to say and do what one wants and what seems right.

In order to answer the question I should like to say a word about monuments and confessions of faith. Actually I do not place much value in monuments or confessions of faith. During my youth I had more than enough of monuments which turned out to be hollow and tottering, and of confessions of faith which were little more than empty phrases.

But of course there are necessary monuments and genuine confessions of faith.

There is a monument in Lower Saxony in West Germany, an obelisk surrounded by big humps covering mass graves. Here lie thousands and thousands of Jewish people who were murdered by the German fascists as late as 1944 and 1945, and the obelisk serves as a reminder of the former Belsen concentration camp.

For those who want to see and hear the Belsen memorial has many terrible stories to tell. Each wooden grave tablet contains in invisible letters innumerable stories of tragic lives and undeserved deaths. Every blade of grass pushing up towards the sun out of the mouldering bones of the victims is a reminder of the horrors which once covered this ground: hunger and typhus, thirst and misery, barbarity and despair.

A West German radio reporter recently visted the Belsen memorial. He was with other journalists and a group of Jewish tourists who had come to pay tribute to the memories of dead friends and relatives. This radio reporter was not one of those who go through life with closed eyes and ears so as to concentrate better on their immediate report; he heard and saw a great deal.

The obelisk, built six years ago, is beginning to crumble; the gardens are neglected; the people living in the neighbourhood, asked what they thought about these things which, after all, had happened on their very doorsteps and could not possibly have escaped their attention, either had no answer whatever or hinted that they thought the mass murder stories doubtful or at least greatly exaggerated.

The results of questions to young people were also frightening. Hardly one among them, for instance, had read the "Diary of Anne Frank" who, with her family, met her death in Belsen concentration camp. Very few think there is any sense in keeping up the memorial at all.

The reporter finally got into conversation with a local gardener, an

older man, who of course knew about the existence of the concentration camps, but believed that everything hat been exaggerated beyond recognition.

"After all, you couldn't open your mouth, you weren't allowed to, or you would have landed there yourself," he said giggling to himself, for he obviously found it quite funny that he had not landed in the concentration camp himself.

But then he made a perfectly terrible remark. He was quite sure many people had died in Belsen. "But after all, the Germans were not to blame for that, were they? It's the Allies who were to blame. For when the troops arrived the people in the concentration camp were weak, because they had not had much to eat; and the Allies gave them more food than they were used to — that's why they died."

This is the free opinion of a gardener in Lower Saxony — and not only his. He is free to express this opinion. He can get it printed and speak it over the radio. If he were a pastor he could proclaim it from the altar, and if he were a teacher he could put it into his pupils' heads.

But he is no pastor, journalist or teacher. He is just one of the vast audience of those pastors, journalists and teachers who express such opinions.

The gardener, a barbarian out of ignorance, a cynic out of stupidity, a swine out of moral laxity, is a perfectly good citizen according to the tenets of the present Bonn government. He is an absolutely normal member of the restorative and revenge-seeking Republic which Defence Minister Strauss, Interior Minister Schroeder and their like want to make and to a great extent have already made out of West Germany — with the full approval of Chancellor Adenauer.

I am not a Jew. Only my youth prevented me from becoming indirectly guilty for the crimes perpetrated by German fascism on the Jews and anti-fascists. The crimes cannot be undone. The dead cannot be brought back to life, the suffering cannot be undone. But I live in the German Democratic Republic, a state which does its utmost to root out the evil spirit expressed by that gardener in Belsen and to replace it by a spirit of active humanism.

While the obelisk in Lower Saxony begins to decay our workers and artists, gardeners and craftsmen are putting the finishing touches to the National Memorial in Buchenwald near Weimar. This is no accident. The memorial will help to immortalise the sacrifices and to make the crimes impossible of repetition.

The Belsen memorial was dedicated in 1952 by Professor Theodor Heuss, President of the German Federal Republic. Professor Heuss said then that no-one could claim to have known nothing. He found words which went to the heart and spoke flaming sentences. In whose hearts have his words remained? Where does his call still flame? Flames like those are stamped out in his state, and his expression of faith came only from the lips.

It seems as if Dr. Adenauer's government denies the very right of existence to the national consciousness of the German citizen.

We do not arrogate to ourselves the freedom to think and speak like that gardener in Lower Saxony, or like those low-class journalists who have injected him with this poison. Our government does not arrogate to itself the freedom to take a Globke into its service, neither does it arrogate to itself the freedom to prepare the destruction of our country-men and of other peoples with atomic weapons.

And as we are speaking of confessions of faith: I confess that I hold this to be right.

from "Die Weltbuehne",
East Berlin, 27th August 1958

WAR CRIME PAYS

Friedrich Flick, nazi steel king and convicted war criminal, is today one of the most powerful industrial magnates in West Germany. He has just obtained a controlling interest in the West German Dynamite Company, valued on the stock market at over £ 4,000,000.

On December 22nd 1947 an American Court sitting at Nuremberg found him guilty of war crimes and sentenced him to seven years imprisonment. He was released in 1950. The charges made against Flick in the war crimes court included "waging aggressive war: exploiting slave labour: being responsible for the deaths of thousands of slave labourers: looting in occupied countries: 'aryanising' Jewish enterprises."

Today Flick is not only in control of the Dynamite Factor. He also controls three big car companies including Mercedes-Benz; four steel works, including one in France and one in Belgium; and he holds a large or controlling interest in 12 other factories and mines.

A West German View

The leading West German newspaper "Die Welt" sent a special correspondent to Buchenwald to attend the dedication ceremony. Here are some paragraphs from his report, printed in his newspaper on September 14th:

"The crematorium is still standing in which the Social Democrat Breitscheid, the Communist Thaelmann, and the Protestant clergyman Schneider were burnt after they had been murdered. The infamous place where prisoners were killed by a shot in the neck is also still here. The little shoes of the children who were killed are also exhibited: they bring tears of shame into the eyes of even the hardest-boiled visitor.

"Yes, such a thing really existed in Germany, even though many people today refuse to recognise the fact. And it is a fact that the memorial here is the first of this sort which has been built on German soil — more than thirteen years after the end of the 'Third Reich'.

"Why is there nothing of this sort in the Federal Republic? Why do we give the powers-that-be in the Zone (German Democratic Republic, ed.) new material for their hymns of hate by granting a pension to the widow of Heydrich, by nominating former concentration camp guards as parliamentary candidates, or allowing compromised judges from the nazi period to remain in office? These are all questions which present themselves when one sees the dreadful past in Buchenwald . . ."

Democratic
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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Anybody who has ever tried to organise a protest resolution about anything will know how many people tend to say, when asked to sign: "Of course I'm against nuclear weapons (or higher rents, or capital punishment, or whatever the protest is about) but what's the use of protesting. It won't do any good."

Nazi Candidates

This week I want to give an example of the good that it can do. As GERMAN REPORT told you in its last issue, Chancellor Adenauer's supporters in Bavaria had nominated Peter Prueckmayer, a former SS guard in the nazi concentration camp at Mauthausen, as one of their candidates for a safe seat in the coming elections to the Bavarian Provincial Parliament. Not content with this, they went ahead and nominated two other active nazis for other seats. They were Dr Max Frauendorfer, head of the nazi forced labour office at Cracow in nazi-occupied Poland, who signed various decrees reducing Jewish forced labourers to the status of slaves: and Leonhard Schmucker, former official of the SS intelligence service in occupied Czechoslovakia. Schmucker was interned by the Americans for thirty months after the war as a dangerous nazi.

Now the people of West Germany are certainly getting used to the re-infiltration of nazis into high places, but this concentration of "Christian Democratic" parliamentary candidates, none of whom could possibly claim that they had just been nominal fellow-travelling nazis, was too much. A howl of anger went up from all West German newspapers which still have some remaining sense of decency, and they were joined by very powerful protests from outside West Germany. The result was that all three candidates have now been removed from the lists. So in this case, at least, protests brought a very tangible result.

"Democratic" Judge

Now I should like to tell you something about another case where further protests would certainly seem to be in order.

On September 10th a new political trial opened in the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe. On trial are seven trade unionists, five from the German Democratic Republic and two from West Germany, accused of "forming a secret society" and "undermining the free democratic constitutional order" in West Germany. One of the charges against the seven accused, and I quote from the official accusation presented to the court, was that they had attempted "to establish groups which would work for better understanding between the trade unions in East and West".

But I do not want to deal today with the rather tenuous charges against the accused: I would rather acquaint you with the more massive charges which can be made against the presiding judge in the case.

For the presiding judge in the Third Senate of the Federal Court, a court which deals exclusively with "political offences", is a certain Dr Ernst Kanter, who has great experience in dealing with political offenders during the nazi period. From 1936 onwards he was a leading military judge in Hitler's Wehrmacht, and in 1944 he became Chief military judge in nazi-occupied Denmark.

Bloody Past

Documentary evidence still exists of some of the sentences which Dr Kanter pronounced during this period. In October 1939 he sentenced a young soldier to three years imprisonment because he had been in contact with former Social Democrats. Later in the war his sentences became harder: in the last year of Hitler's war Dr Kanter sentenced at least eleven German soldiers to death for "undermining the will to resist", the phrase usually used by Hitler's military courts in describing anti-nazi activity in the Wehrmacht.

When the trial of the seven trade unionists opened on September 10th, the defence lawyers submitted the documentary evidence on Dr Kanter's bloody past to the court, requesting that he should not be allowed to try the case.

The prosecution lawyers opposed the request, stating that Dr Kanter had passed these sentences "in the honest endeavour to serve the ends of justice".

The court, after a three hour recess, rejected the request to remove Dr Kanter, stating that he had, in fact, been an anti-nazi resistance fighter! The only thing that now remains is for someone to declare that Adolf Hitler was really a staunch opponent of nazism.

Badly Bashed

Paris has its Eiffel Tower, New York its Statue of Liberty, and London its Big Ben. The Berlin equivalent is the Brandenburger Tor, a massive gateway rather like London's Marble Arch, which by a chance of geography stands almost exactly on the sector boundary between East and West Berlin.

The gateway, and a group of statuary on top of it, were pretty badly bashed about in the street fighting at the end of World War Two, and a year or two ago the East Berlin City Council decided that the time had come to restore it. It was relatively easy to restore the masonry of the arch, but the statue, a young lady in a chariot, presented more of a problem, since the plaster casts taken before the war were stored in West Berlin.

However, by a rare example of East-West cooperation, it was finally arranged that the West Berlin authorities should restore the statue, and the East Berlin authorities should restore the archway. Everything went pretty smoothly, and a few weeks ago the completed statue was delivered on the east side of the sector boundary ready for erection.

Iron Cross

There was one point that still had to be settled, however. This was the fact that the young lady in the statue carried in her hand a spear topped with a Prussian eagle, and a big iron cross. When the Iron Cross was originally placed on the spear, in the year 1814, it had no sinister connotations. In recent years, however, this same Iron Cross marked the nazi planes that bombed Rotterdam, Warsaw and Coventry, and was worn proudly on their uniforms by concentration camp guards. The East Berlin authorities, rightly I think, decided that the Brandenburger Tor should not be topped by this symbol of shame, and the Iron Cross, together with the Prussian eagle, was removed from the spear.

The West German press broke out in a rash of protest against this "desecration of a historic Germanic symbol". I don't think I need add any comment.

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